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DD/P 4-7666

CONFIDENTIAL

26 June 1959

Executive Registry

11-5943

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

VIA : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Identi-Kit

1. This memorandum is for information only and may be of interest should you again have occasion to address the International Association of Police Chiefs.

2. With the assistance of the original inventor and [redacted] TSS has developed the Identi-Kit as an aid for identification. The purpose of the project was to develop a means of portraying the front view of a wide variety of male faces in instances where a photograph is unavailable. The Kit consists of a series of transparent overlays, each of a different facial characteristic, which when placed together give a likeness of the subject in question. Key numbers on the overlays allow identification characteristics to be transmitted by cable or dispatch.

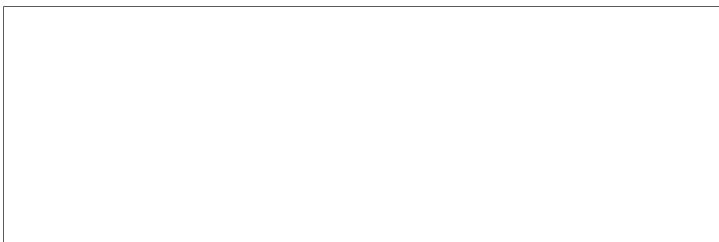
25X1

25X1

3. Attached are photographs of the kit and the instruction manual which accompanies it. The kit is currently available to the field, but it is strongly recommended that the operator be trained in its use. Its evaluation for Agency purposes is being conducted by the CI Staff.

4. As a further evaluation of the kit, it has been made available to the Los Angeles Police Force (which is unwitting of Agency sponsorship of the project) who just concluded a detailed evaluation which involved the assignment of four deputy sheriffs to this work over a period of 40 days during which time 123 cases were worked on with highly satisfactory results. The final report from Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, County of Los Angeles, says in part:

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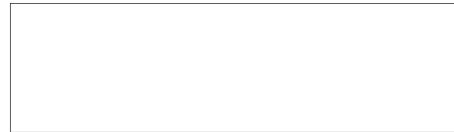
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"As a result of this field test, The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has adopted the Identi-Kit system as an additional permanent function of the Identification Bureau. At least four deputies will be assigned to its operations. It is the majority opinion of Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess and his staff that the Identi-Kit will be an important part in the never ending struggle against the inroads of crime."

5. Several other police departments, including that of the District of Columbia, have expressed an interest in this device, and it is being made available to them through the contractor without their being aware of Agency sponsorship.



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Chief, DD/P/TSS

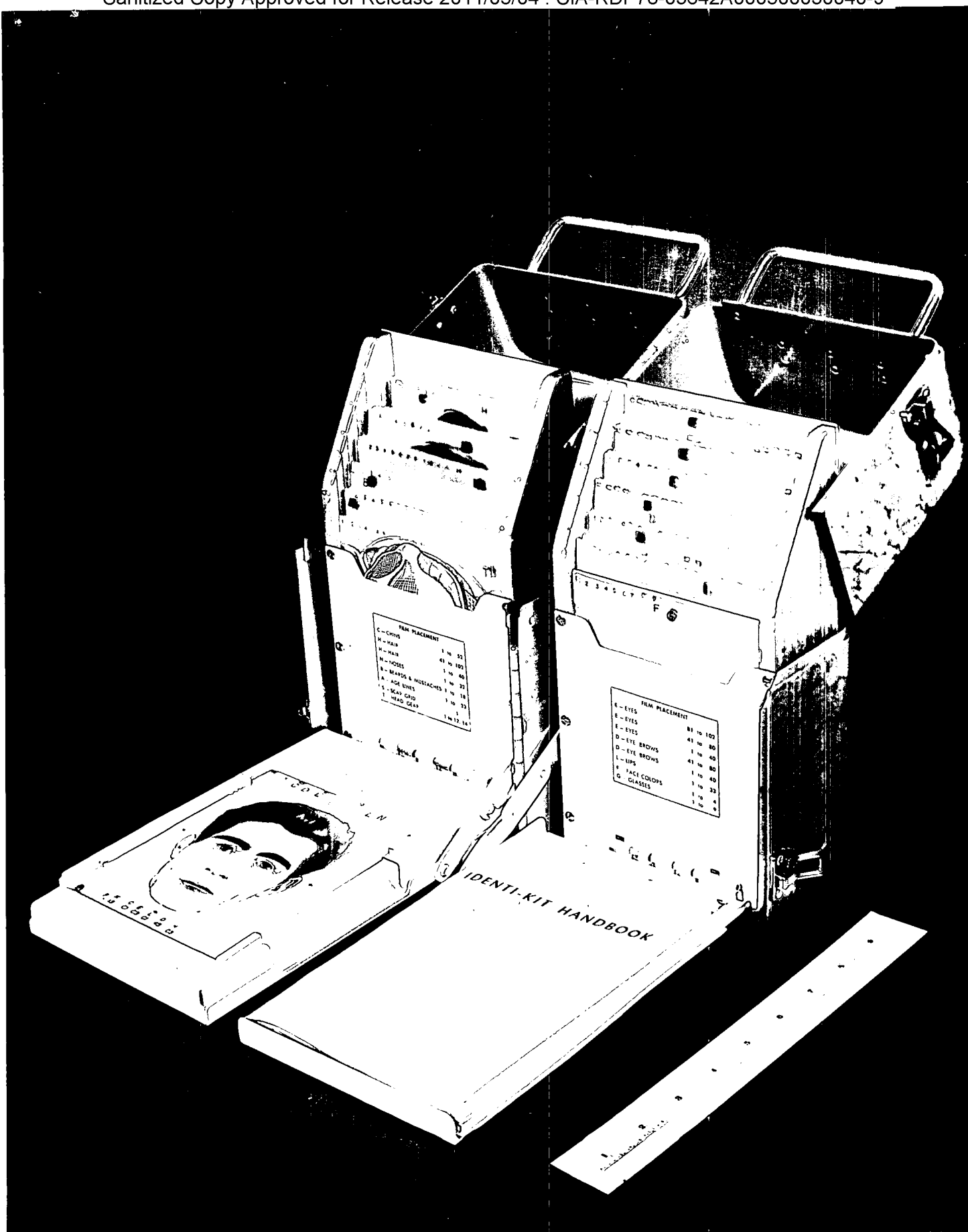
**Attachments:**

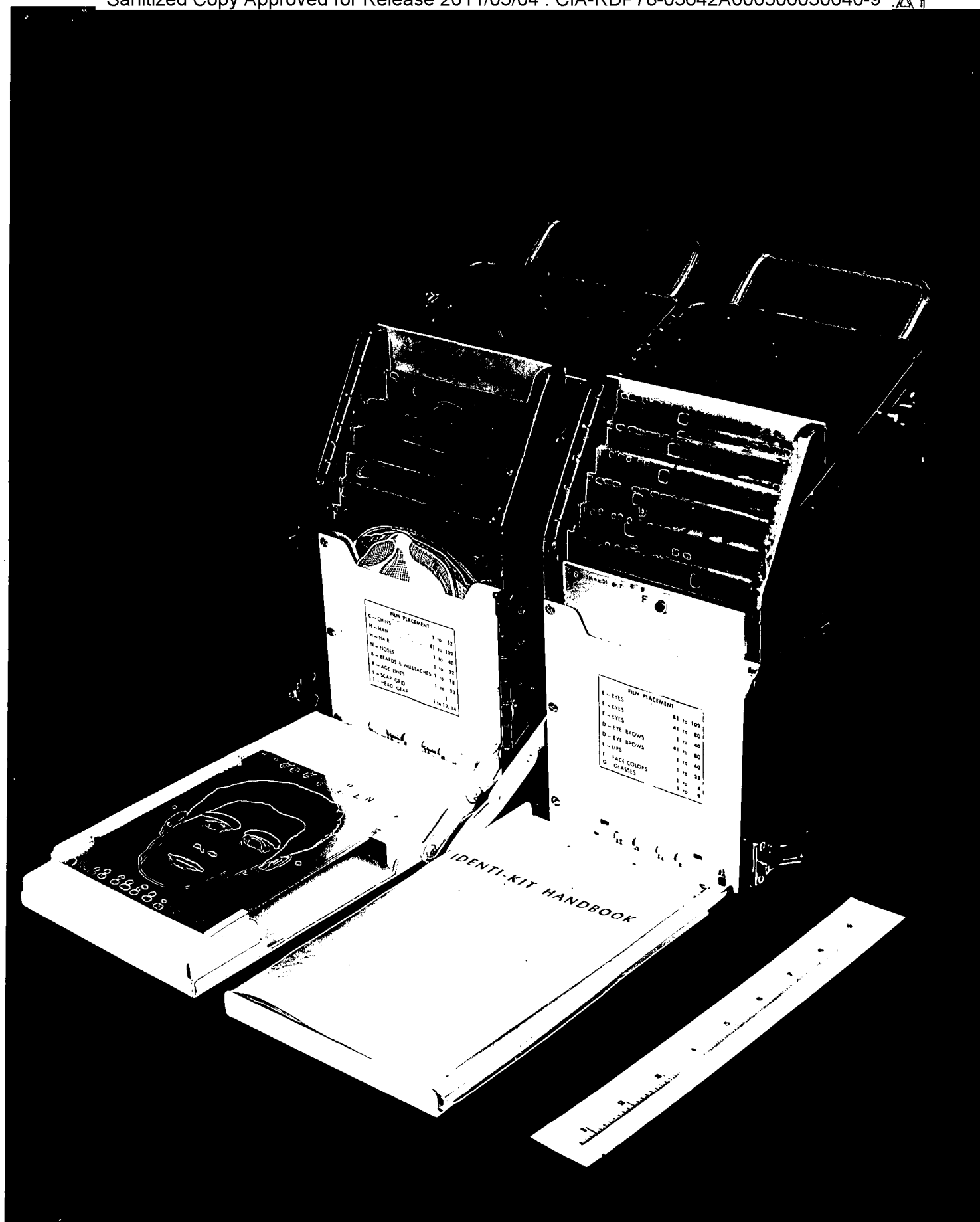
Photographs of Kit  
Instruction Manual

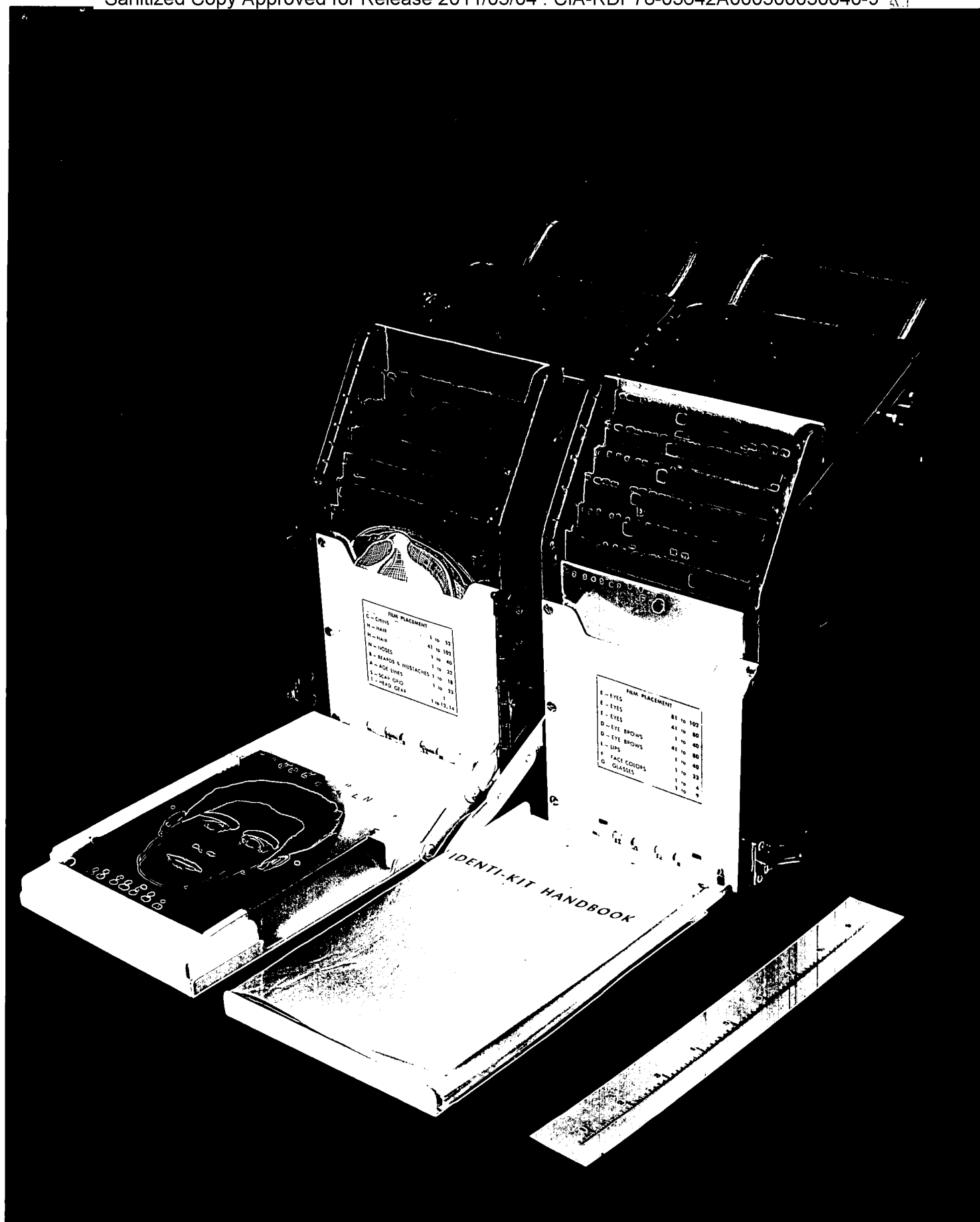
cc: COPS, C/CI (w/photos)

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USE ONLY☐ CONFIDENTIAL☒ SECRET

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Chief, DD/P/TSS

NO.

DATE

26 June 1959

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DD/P, 1046 L

2.

D/DCI, 203 Admin

3.

C/TSS - Westport Bldg.

4.

AC/TSS/R+D  
TSS/ER

5.

D/DCI

6.

TSS/ER

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

2. After you have finished reading the instruction manual, TSS would appreciate having it returned so that it may be reinserted in the Kit from which it was removed.

TO 2.

This is probably of more immediate interest in connection with your August talk at the Air Academy.

File Identification  
Identi-Kit

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